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Communications will be welcomed from any quarter. Abstracts of scientific papers are solicited, and twenty copies of the issue containing such will be mailed the author on request in advance. Rejected manuscripts will be returned to the authors only when the requisite amount of postage accompanies the manuscript. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty of good faith. We do not hold ourselves responsible for any view or opinion expressed in the communications of our correspondents.

Attention is called to the "Wants" column. All are invited to use it in soliciting information or seeking new positions. The name and address of applicants should be given in full, so that answers will go direct to them. The "Exchange" column is likewise open.

AMERICAN ZOOLOGISTS will certainly be glad to hear that the Zoological Station at Naples is once more open to them. Through the liberality of Major Alex. Henry Davis of New York a table has been secured until January, 1892, and now awaits its occupancy by some American investigator. Major Davis became interested in the matter while in Naples last January, and paid for a table during the current year in addition to promising his support and influence toward making the arrangement permanent. The United States has been represented at the Naples Station but twice since its foundation, although a score of American workers have enjoyed its privileges within that time. Williams College held a table for two years, and the University of Pennsylvania for one. Naturally the undertaking proved too expensive, and of too little value to any one institution to warrant the permanent maintenance of a table; and during the past six years only such Americans have been able to work there as have enjoyed the personal courtesy of the director, Professor Anton Dohrn, or as have been temporarily occupying tables of some European state. Last year two American workers were at the station, dependent upon the sufferance of German hospitality for their places, and had the very doubtful pleasure of seeing every civilized nation present in its representatives except their own. Now that the United States no longer occupies the anomalous position of being the richest and most prosperous nation of the world, and yet the one most indifferent to this grand international undertaking, American workers may hope to see the matter taken up by the national authorities or in some other definite way that will assure its permanency.

ALEXANDER WINCHELL, LL.D., of the University of Michigan, died at Ann Arbor, Feb. 19. Professor Winchell was born at North East, N.Y., on the 31st of December, 1824, and graduated at Wesleyan University in 1847. The following year he became a teacher of natural science at Amenia Seminary in New York State, but only remained one year, removing in 1849 to Alabama, where he continued his work as a teacher in connection with several institutions. In 1854 he became professor of physics and civil engineering in the University of Michigan, but a year later he naturally gravitated to the professorship of geology and natural science, retaining the position until 1872. In 1859 he was appointed by the State authorities director of the Geological Survey, and pushed the work energetically until the outbreak of the war arrested its further progress. He was again connected with the survey in 1869, when it was resumed, but resigned two years later. From 1866 to 1869 he also held the corresponding chair in connection with the Kentucky University. In 1873 he left the Uni-

versity of Michigan to accept the chancellorship of Syracuse University, but held the place only one year, retiring to accept the professorship of geology, zoölogy, and botany; and again from 1875 to 1878 he did double duty, filling the same department in Vanderbilt University in connection with his duties at Syracuse. About this time he contributed a series of articles to the *Northern Christian Advocate*, published in Auburn, N.Y., in which he defended a belief in the existence of a pre-Adamite race, and also intimated his concurrence in the theory of evolution. For these views, deemed unsound by the authorities of Vanderbilt University, he was called upon to resign his professorship, but refused, and his lectureship was abolished. Quite a prolonged and bitter controversy was the result, and he fell into much disfavor among many of his fellowship in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1879 Professor Winchell was called to the chair of geology and paleontology in the University of Michigan, which he retained until his death. Among his works are many official reports and a number of books on evolution, and extensive contributions to scientific periodicals. His bibliography includes about two hundred titles.

THE ZIMBABYE AND OTHER RUINS IN MASHONALAND.

THE following information regarding these famous ruins was received from Mr. E. A. Maund by the Royal Geographical Society, London, which he obtained from Mr. Phillips, in correction and amplification of the remarks made by him at the meeting of the society on the 24th of November, 1890.¹

Mr. Phillips was all over that part of the country in 1866, and was with Mr. Hartley the year after, and saw many old gold-diggings near the hill which then first got its name of Hartley Hill. In 1868 he and Mr. Westbeach crossed the Hanyani and went down the Mazoe. In October, 1871, he was hunting at the junction of the Ingwesi and Lundi Rivers, when a letter was brought to him from Herr Mauch. It was not signed, but the writer reminded him of an adventure they had had together with five lions on the Mahalapsi, so that he might identify him. Mauch said he was living with a man named Renders (not Kinders), and was in a bad plight, having been robbed of every thing except his papers and gun. He begged him not to bring a Matabele with him, as they were living among the Mashonas. Phillips went and found Mauch and Adam Renders, an American, living on the top of a kopje, a few miles south-west of the ruins of Zimbabwe. It was a pretty place. A waterfall coming down from the ridges above fell into a pan by the hut, in which it disappeared, to come out again in a gushing fountain several hundred feet below, a cave of refuge being close by, with water flowing through it, to which they and their Mashona hosts could fly, and barricade themselves in with a boulder of rock, when Matabele raiding parties were afoot. Mauch told him of some ruins in the neighborhood, and next day the party went to see them.

It was really Renders who first discovered these ruins, three years before Mauch saw them, though Mauch and Baines first published them to the world, and they only described what the old Portuguese writers quoted by Mr. Maund talked of hundreds of years ago. Mauch, on their arrival at the Zimbabwe ruins, asked what they thought of them. He (Phillips) confessed he was not greatly impressed, as they were exactly like several others he had seen in other parts of the country. There were the same zigzag patterns, and the mortarless walls of small hewn stones.

Shortly before, when hunting in the mountains to the west of Zimbabwe, he had come upon a regular line of such ruins, one of which must have been a very large place. It had three distinct gateways in the outer wall, which were at least thirty feet thick at the base; and an immense ironwood tree, that would have taken hundreds of years to grow, had grown through a crevice in the wall and rent it asunder. On the side of a gateway were vast heaps of ashes, with occasional potsherds about, the only evidence of the old inhabitants.

¹ Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, January, 1891, p. 20.